

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 1091**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Ruskin**

February 27, 2009

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An act to add Section 9006 to the Public Resources Code, relating to natural resources.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1091, as introduced, Ruskin. Natural resources: climate change.

There is in state government the Natural Resources Agency. The Natural Resources Agency consists of various departments including the Department of Conservation, the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, the Department of Fish and Game, and the Wildlife Conservation Board.

This bill would require the Natural Resources Agency to incorporate climate change predictions into all relevant planning processes. The bill would specify key tools for addressing climate change adaptation.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 2 following:
- 3 (a) Climate change is one of the most serious threats to
- 4 California's public health, infrastructure, and natural resources.
- 5 Despite California's best efforts to reduce greenhouse gas
- 6 emissions, some level of human-induced global climate change
- 7 has already occurred, and some further changes are inevitable.

1 Thus, it is imperative that the state take steps necessary to plan for  
2 and adapt to the anticipated effects of climate change.

3 (b) Projected changes from climate change include increased  
4 temperatures, sea level rise and increased storm surges, declining  
5 snowpack, more frequent precipitation events, and an increased  
6 risk of drought, fires, and heat waves. Impacts on California's  
7 biodiversity include shifts in the types and distributions of species  
8 and alterations of life cycle timing. These projected changes are  
9 expected to have serious impacts on California's wildlife and  
10 natural systems. Projected impacts include increased rates of  
11 species extinction, decreased biodiversity, and loss of ecosystem  
12 services vital to the quality of life for all Californians.

13 (c) The state is charged with protecting and conserving our  
14 public trust resources, including fish, plants, and wildlife. Fish and  
15 wildlife resources are held in trust for the people of the state  
16 primarily by and through the Department of Fish and Game. In  
17 light of the anticipated impacts of climate change, it is the  
18 Legislature's intent that the Department of Fish and Game, in  
19 fulfilling its public trust responsibilities, plan and implement  
20 policies to assist wildlife in adapting to climate change.

21 SEC. 2. Section 9006 is added to the Public Resources Code,  
22 to read:

23 9006. To prepare the state to adapt to anticipated climate  
24 change impacts while protecting our natural resources, the Natural  
25 Resources Agency shall incorporate climate change predictions  
26 into all relevant planning processes. Key tools for addressing  
27 climate change adaptation include, but are not necessarily limited  
28 to, all of the following:

29 (a) An explicit prioritization of state goals and objectives that  
30 relate to climate change preparedness and adaptation.

31 (b) A state commitment to funding activities of the Natural  
32 Resources Agency needed for climate change adaptation, and to  
33 identifying appropriate funding sources.

34 (c) Adaptive management of public and private resource lands,  
35 based on ongoing monitoring and evaluation of climate change  
36 and management impacts.

37 (d) Development of a coordinated approach to the collection  
38 and management of baseline information on status and distribution  
39 of selected ecological indicators to support adaptive natural  
40 resource management.

1 (e) Creation of a coordinated investment strategy that identifies  
2 high-priority lands and waters, the conservation of which is  
3 necessary to sustain functioning native ecosystems and viable  
4 populations of fish and wildlife species under projected climate  
5 changes.

6 (f) Avoiding, to the extent feasible, further development on state  
7 lands identified as high-priority lands, the conservation of which  
8 is key for climate change preparedness and adaptation.

9 (g) A detailed plan for how climate change impacts will be  
10 addressed by projects, programs, and policies, and how these best  
11 management practices will be employed and included in the  
12 decisionmaking processes of the respective agencies and  
13 departments.

14 (h) A process for integrating local, state, and federal adaptation  
15 policies, programs, and projects with the plan.

16 (i) A plan for how proposed investments in infrastructure, such  
17 as highways and levees, will incorporate an evaluation of their  
18 climate change impact on reducing or increasing the protection of  
19 natural resources from the adverse effects of climate change.